

Message Text

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ORIGIN NEA-07

INFO OCT-01 SS-14 ISO-00 DODE-00 PM-03 NSC-05 NSCE-00

SSO-00 INRE-00 INR-05 CIAE-00 SP-02 L-01 ACDA-05 /043 R

DRAFTED BY NEA/ARN:TJCAROLAN:JFC

APPROVED BY NEA:SSOBER

DOD/OSD/ISA: MG C BALDWIN (SUBS)

DOD/DSAA:GEN H. FISH

PM:TSTERN

NEA/ARN:MDRAPER

NEA/ARP:FDICKMAN

NSC: MR. HOUGHTON

NEA:ARLAY

S/S:MR. ORTIZ

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O 052216Z MAR 76

FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO AMEMBASSY JIDDA IMMEDIATE

INFO AMEMBASSY AMMAN IMMEDIATE

USCINCEUR IMMEDIATE

S E C R E T STATE 054657

LIMDIS, FOR AMBASSADOR

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: MASS, PFOR, JO, SA, US

SUBJECT: AIR DEFENSE FINANCING FOR JORDAN

REF: (A) JIDDA 1544, (B) STATE 48170

1. DOD IS URGENTLY EXAMINING A NUMBER OF OPTIONS FOR
A SCALED-DOWN AIR DEFENSE PACKAGE THAT WE MIGHT SUGGEST
TO THE JORDANIANS AS POSSIBLE ALTERNATIVES TO THE STYMIED
HAWK/VULCAN PROGRAM. BEFORE POSSIBLY PROPOSING SUCH
ALTERNATIVES TO THE JORDANIANS, HOWEVER, WE MAY WANT TO
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REVIEW THEM WITH SENIOR SAUDI OFFICIALS IN HOPE OF DEVELOP-

ING A COORDINATED, JOINT U.S.-SAUDI APPROACH TO GOJ ON THIS ISSUE.

2. YOU SHOULD THEREFORE SEEK APPOINTMENT WITH FONMIN PRINCE SAUD AND REITERATE OUR DESIRE--BASED ON WHAT WE PERCEIVE TO BE A MUTUAL U.S.-SAUDI INTEREST IN ENSURING THAT JORDAN'S LEGITIMATE DEFENSE NEEDS CONTINUE TO BE MET THROUGH ITS TRADITIONAL RELIANCE ON FRIENDLY GOVTS (I.E., USG AND SAG)--TO DEVELOP A COMMON U.S.-SAUDI POSITION THAT WOULD ENABLE US TO RESPOND TO JORDANIAN AIR DEFENSE REQUIREMENTS IN MOST EFFECTIVE AND SYMPATHETIC FASHION POSSIBLE. YOU SHOULD INFORM PRINCE SAUD THAT--AS RESULT OF HIS FEB 29 COMMENTS--USG IS EXAMINING POSSIBILITIES OF FORMULATING ALTERNATIVE HARDWARE/SUPPORT PACKAGE THAT MIGHT ENABLE GOJ TO ACQUIRE AN AMERICAN AIR DEFENSE SYSTEM MORE IN KEEPING WITH ITS AVAILABLE RESOURCES. WE THEREFORE HOPE THAT CONSIDERATION OF JORDANIAN FUNDING PROBLEM IN SAUDI COUNCIL OF MINISTERS CAN BE DEFERRED UNTIL WE HAVE HAD TIME TO REVIEW SUCH ALTERNATIVES WITH SAUDI OFFICIALS IF THEY WISH TO DO SO. WE ATTACH GREATEST IMPORTANCE TO DEVELOPING A COMMON APPROACH TO THIS ENTIRE PROBLEM WITH THE SAG. KISSINGER

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: Z
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: AIR DEFENSE, FINANCE
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 05 MAR 1976
Decaption Date: 28 MAY 2004
Decaption Note: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: ShawDG
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1976STATE054657
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: TJCAROLAN:JFC
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: GS
Errors: N/A
Film Number: D760085-0282
From: STATE
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1976/newtext/t19760388/aaaadabd.tel
Line Count: 83
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Office: ORIGIN NEA
Original Classification: SECRET
Original Handling Restrictions: LIMDIS
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: SECRET
Previous Handling Restrictions: LIMDIS
Reference: 76 JIDDA 1544, 76 STATE 48170
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: ShawDG
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 12 OCT 2004
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: WITHDRAWN <16 JUN 2004 by izenbei0, 3.4.X6>; RELEASED <12 OCT 2004 by KelleyW0>; APPROVED <04 NOV 2004 by ShawDG>
Review Markings:

Margaret P. Grafeld
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
04 MAY 2006

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: AIR DEFENSE FINANCING FOR JORDAN
TAGS: MASS, PFOR, JO, SA, US
To: JIDDA
Type: TE
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 04 MAY 2006